



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 30

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Resolution 185

Opposing District or Borough High School Admissions Priority in Manhattan

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2024 NYCPSC Chancellor David C. Banks announced that he would reinstate “some kind of priority” for students in District 2 in high school admissions;¹

WHEREAS, the NYCPSC Office of District Planning reported in its Fall 2023 Manhattan High School Data Summary Report that, in respect of Manhattan, “there is an excess of high school seats in all districts, particularly in District 2;”²

WHEREAS, with a total high school enrollment of 32,471 students and total capacity of 41,922 seats, District 2 has excess high school capacity of 9,451 seats, more than any other community school district in the NYCPSC system;³

WHEREAS, ending district priority in District 2 led to greater access to many popular District 2 schools for Black, Latinx, and low-income students;⁴

WHEREAS, 56% of students attending high schools in Manhattan live outside Manhattan and 14% of students in Manhattan high schools live in Queens;⁵

WHEREAS, the Office of District Planning reported in its Fall 2023 Queens High School Data Summary Report that Queens has a deficit of 863 high school seats;⁶

WHEREAS, the Office of District Planning has reported that District 30 has a high school enrollment of 9,811 students and has a total of 9,999 high school seats, leaving very little room to accommodate any additional students;⁷

WHEREAS, for many years, students living in District 30 have attended high schools in Manhattan in large numbers, especially high schools in District 2;

WHEREAS, because of the layout of the New York City public transportation system, many high schools in Manhattan are a shorter commute away from neighborhoods in District 30 than comparable schools in Queens;

WHEREAS, any reinstatement of district priority in high school admissions for students in District 2 or implementation of borough priority for students in Manhattan would result in fewer choices of high school opportunities for students in neighboring District 30; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the District 30 Community Education Council urges Chancellor Banks to reconsider his stated intent to grant geographic priority in high school admissions to students in District 2 or in Manhattan until the Office of Student Enrollment and the Office of District Planning can provide a detailed analysis of the impact of those changes in admissions priorities on high school admissions citywide and New York City Schools provides opportunities for citywide public comment of the analysis; be it further

RESOLVED, that the District 30 Community Education Council also requests that NYCPS also prepare an alternative report to reflect a distance priority as opposed to a Manhattan priority.

VOTED AND APPROVED: June 10, 2024

¹ Michael Elsen-Rooney, “NYC to Restore a Controversial Admissions Boost for Manhattan Students, Banks Says,” *Chalkbeat New York*, May 3, 2024 (<https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2024/05/03/high-school-admissions-priority-for-manhattan-district-2-could-return-under-david-banks/>); Jessica Gould, “NYC to Restore High School Admissions Advantage for Some Manhattan Students,” *Gothamist*, May 3, 2024 (<https://gothamist.com/news/nyc-to-restore-high-school-admissions-advantage-for-some-manhattan-students>).

² NYC Department of Education Office of District Planning, “Manhattan High School Data Summary: 2024-2025 Strategic Planning Data Considerations,” Fall 2023 (<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/manhattan-high-school-data-summary.pdf>), p. 16.

³ “Manhattan High School Data Summary,” p. 16. For data on other districts, see NYC Department of Education Office of District Planning, “Brooklyn High School Data Summary” (<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/brooklyn-high-school-data-summary.pdf>), p. 17; “Queens High School Data Summary” (<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/queens-high-school-data-summary.pdf>), p. 15; “Staten Island High School Data Summary” (<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/staten-island-high-school-data-summary.pdf>), p. 13; “Bronx High School Data Summary” (<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/bronx-high-school-data-summary.pdf>), p. 15.

⁴ Amy Zimmer, “At some coveted Manhattan high schools, admissions changes dramatically alter incoming freshman class,” *Chalkbeat New York*, May 21, 2021, <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2021/5/21/22447800/at-some-coveted-manhattan-high-schools-admission-changes-dramatically-alter-incoming-freshman-class/>

⁵ “Manhattan High School Data Summary,” p. 11.

⁶ “Queens High School Data Summary,” p. 15.

⁷ “Queens High School Data Summary,” p. 15.